IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michel Belley, et. al.

Serial No.: 09/097,537 Case19548YDA Art Unit: 1614

Filed June 15, 1998 Examiner:

Title METHYLSULFONYL PHENYL-2-(5)-

FURANONES AS COX-2 INHIBITORS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts dated July 6, 1998, a copy of which is attached.

The Notice indicates that the declaration that was forwarded with the application as originally filed was unsigned. A declaration/power of attorney is included herewith which is executed by all named inventors.

Any additional fees required in connection with this request may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date appearing below.

Richard C. Billups

Reg. No. 31,916

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